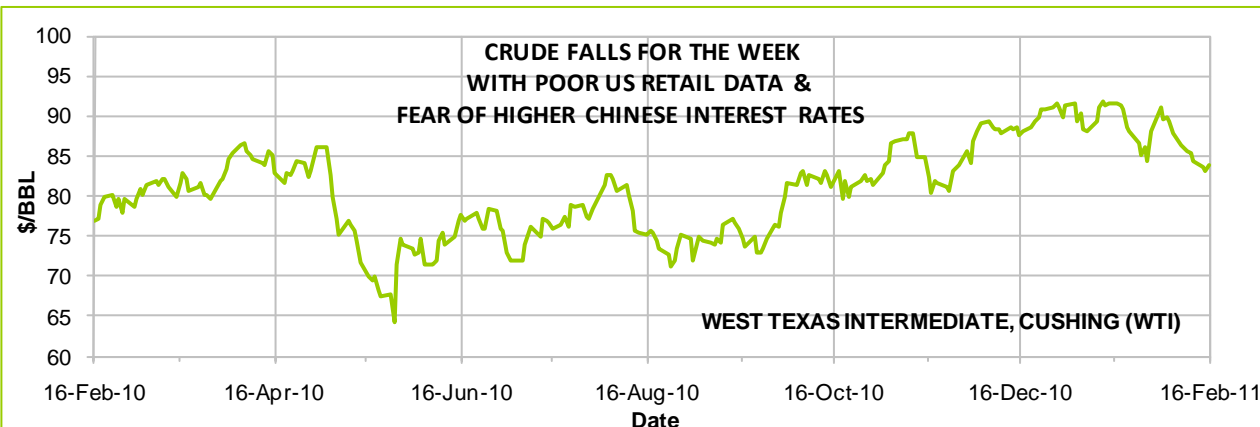


## Crude Oil



Crude inventories grew by only 0.9 million barrels as a 7.2% decline in imports offset a drop in crude inputs to refineries and a meager 2% increase in production. The increase was less than 40% of the 5-year average gain of 2.3 million and the expected gain of 2.6 million. Inventories have worsened to only 3.5% above last year and 5.6% above the 5-year average. Despite the small weekly gain, inventories are at their second highest level for this date in the past 20 years.

Despite continued turmoil in the Mideast, prices fell for the week because of poor U.S. retail sales and fears of higher Chinese interest rates to curb inflation. Futures prices were \$2.13 lower, settling at \$93.79. This was \$14.36 (18.1%) lower than a year ago. The spot price settled at \$83.77, \$6.80 (8.8%) higher than last year but \$1.79 below the week before. Futures and spot prices are 36% and 42% below their 2008 peak prices.

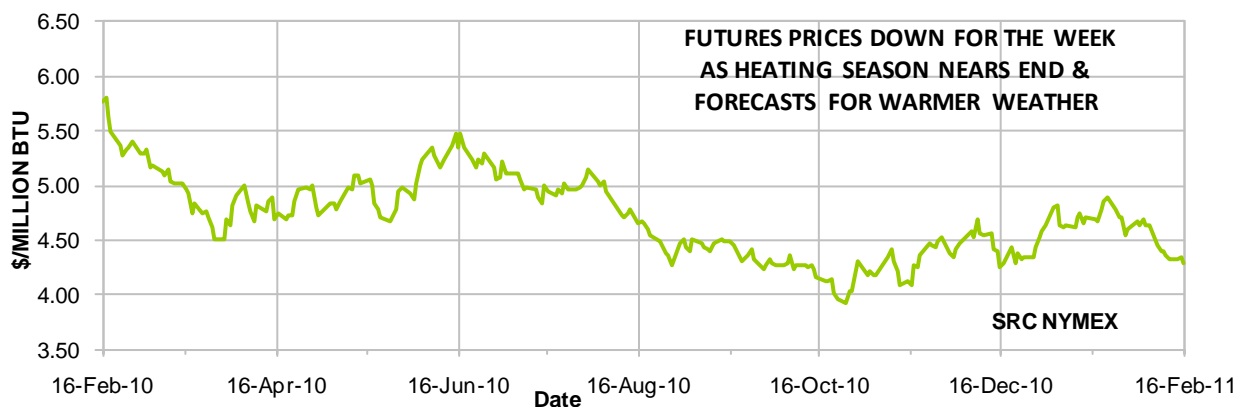


## Natural gas



Inventories fell this week by 233 BCF. The inventory decline was nearly identical to the expected decline of 234 BCF but it was 56% larger than the 5-year average decline of 150 BCF. At 1,911 BCF, this week's inventory level has worsened to 6.9% below last year and 6.3% below the 5-year average.

Despite last week's large inventory draw, prices fell this week on forecasts for more moderate winter weather. Also, the end of the heating season is in sight and inventories levels are still more than adequate. Futures prices fell by 12.2 cents this week. At \$4.282 per million BTU, futures prices are \$1.480 (25.7%) lower than a year ago and 67.9% below the 2008 peak. They have fallen by 49.5 cents over the past 4 weeks. After rising by 15.0 cents 2 weeks ago, spot prices fell by 32.0 cents last week and by another 29.0 cents this week to \$3.940 per million BTU. Spot prices are \$1.71 (30.3%) lower than a year ago and 70.4% below their 2008 peak.

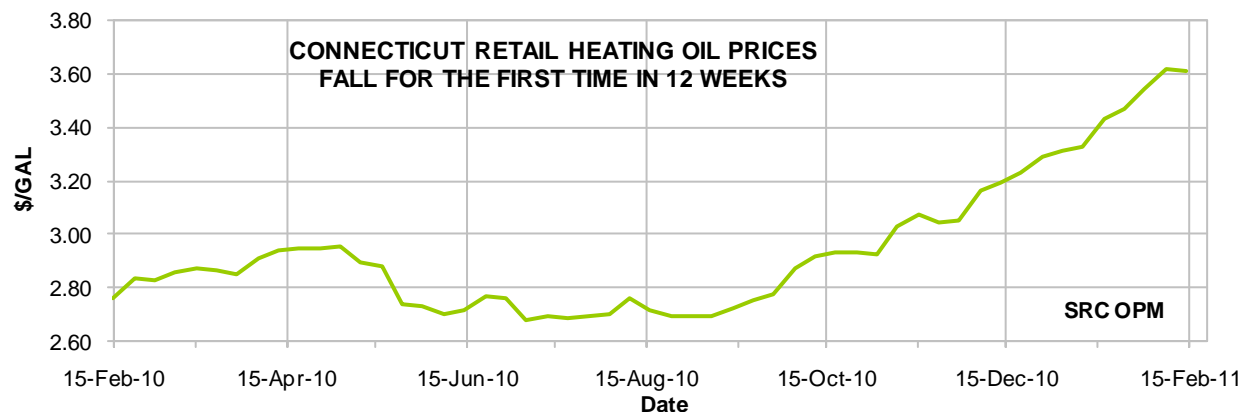


# Heating oil



Inventories fell by 3.1 million barrels this past week. This was more than 3 times the expected decline and 83% larger than the 5-year average. Stocks have worsened to 4.9% above last year but they are their highest level ever for this date, 17.2% above the five-year average.

Futures prices and spot prices have risen by more than 50 cents/gal over the past 13 weeks from higher crude prices and colder than normal weather. Futures prices settled at \$2.844/gal, 75.4 cents (36.1%) above last year but \$1.351 (32.2%) below 2008's peak. Spot prices are at \$2.760/gal, 78.1 cents (39.5%) above last year but \$1.320 (32.3%) below the 2008 peak. Retail prices fell by 0.3 cents this past week, the first decline in 12 weeks. They are now at \$3.613/gal, 85.2 cents (30.9%) above a year ago but \$1.154 (24.2%) below their 2008 peak. The highest price in this week's survey was \$4.199 and the lowest was \$3.150. According to census data, 49.1% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with oil.



## Connecticut Regional Heating Oil Prices

	FAIRFIELD			HARTFORD			NEW LONDON		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
15-Feb-10	2.942	3.359	2.540	2.724	2.999	2.479	2.804	3.359	2.539
31-Jan-11	3.637	4.099	3.240	3.594	3.990	3.369	3.421	3.580	3.240
7-Feb-11	3.720	4.199	3.340	3.659	3.999	3.429	3.495	3.690	3.280
14-Feb-11	3.727	4.199	3.340	3.657	3.999	3.429	3.476	3.630	3.280

	LITCHFIELD			MIDDLESEX			TOLLAND-WINDHAM		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
15-Feb-10	2.685	2.829	2.599	2.762	2.899	2.590	2.664	2.849	2.560
31-Jan-11	3.581	3.729	3.439	3.569	3.729	3.340	3.478	3.549	3.360
7-Feb-11	3.615	3.749	3.539	3.663	3.799	3.400	3.578	3.649	3.410
14-Feb-11	3.629	3.749	3.559	3.654	3.799	3.400	3.546	3.649	3.370

	NEW HAVEN		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW
15-Feb-10	2.695	2.990	2.440
31-Jan-11	3.469	3.729	3.120
7-Feb-11	3.535	3.849	3.150
14-Feb-11	3.535	3.929	3.150

OPM conducts a weekly survey of retail heating oil prices in Connecticut. These figures reference the most recent results of that survey for the reporting week beginning February 14, 2011. Figures reflect per gallon prices without discount.

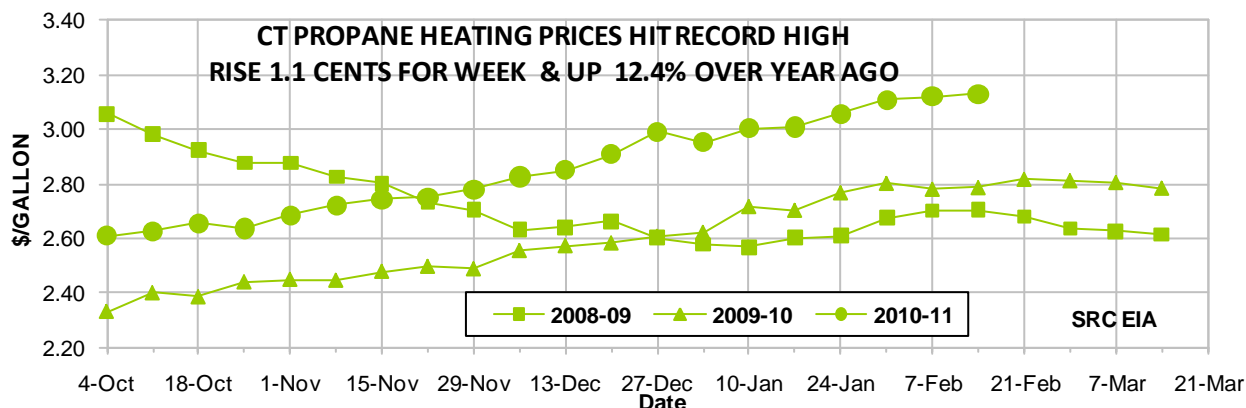
For more information, see [www.ct.gov/OPM](http://www.ct.gov/OPM) > Energy Management > Energy Price and Supply Information

# Propane



Inventories declined by 3.8 million barrels this week as production fell and demand increased. This week's decline compares to a 5-year average decline for the week of 3.3 million. Over the past 6 weeks inventories have fallen by 21.6 million barrels, 28% more than the 5-year average. Inventories are now 3.0% higher than last year but 17.8% below the 5-year average.

Spot propane prices rose by 2.4 cents this past week. At \$1.376 per gallon, spot prices were only 12.3 cents (9.8%) higher than a year ago but they are 30.5% lower than their peak 2008 price. Reflecting previous increases in crude oil prices, supply issues, and colder than normal temperatures, the average Connecticut retail price for home heating rose by 1.1 cents this week. At an all time high of \$3.131/gal, retail prices are 34.5 cents (12.4%) higher than a year ago. According to census data, propane is used to heat 2.7% of homes in Connecticut.



# Gasoline



The first weekly increase in demand in 7 weeks and a 10% decline in imports lead to a meager 0.2 million barrels gain in inventories this week. This was 86% below the expected gain and only 40% of the 5-year average. Inventories levels are only 4.0% higher than last year and 6.7% above the 5-year average but they are at their highest level ever for this date.

At \$2.635/gal, futures prices rose by 2.6 cents this week. They are 57.0 cents (27.6%) higher than last year but \$0.976 (27.0%) below their 2008 peak. Spot prices rose by 0.5 cents. At \$2.518/gal, they are 53.8 cents (27.2%) higher than a year ago. Spot prices are 26.2% (\$0.894) below their 2008 peak. Connecticut retail prices increased by 1.2 cents/gal this past week. Prices have risen in each the past 11 weeks and by 36.1cents over the past 15 weeks. At \$3.348, prices are 54.3 cents (19.4%) higher than a year ago but 23.7% (\$1.042) below 2008's peak.

